



MEDIA ADVISORY

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PACT Summit Looks at Future of Professional Licensing in California

Licensing Agencies to Discuss a Host of Issues at Major Consumer Affairs Conference

Who: The California Department of Consumer Affairs' boards and bureaus will come together for the PACT summit, an extraordinary conference that will bring together nearly all of the Department of Consumer Affairs' 40 regulatory agencies.

What: The boards will discuss a number of consumer-related topics affecting business, the health care industry and design and construction.

When: November 18-21, 2008

Where: Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel

5400 West Century Blvd.

**Topics and
Background:**

These include:

Licensee shortages: Several licensing boards will be discussing expected shortages of licensed professionals and tradespeople, and related issues. These include:

- Doug Hoffner, Acting Secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, will lead a panel discussion exploring strategies and opportunities for

ensuring an adequate supply of licensed professionals for the state's workforce.

- The Board of Occupational Therapy will discuss the OT workforce shortage and the role of foreign-trained occupational therapists in helping meet the occupational therapy needs of California's health care consumers.
- Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors: A shortage of engineers currently exists and will increase due to the retirement of engineers and surveyors over the next several years. The Board will discuss options such as outreach, media campaigns and potential legislation to assist the Governor in increasing the workforce for engineers and land surveyors by 20,000 by 2014.
- The Board of Respiratory Therapy will discuss the 2007 Workforce Study and strategies to address a projected workforce shortage and the feasibility of increasing competency levels for licensing.
- The Board of Registered Nursing will present the findings of a survey conducted on its behalf by the University of California, San Francisco Center for California Health Workforce Studies of registered nurses who requested endorsement of their nursing license into and out of California between August 2007 and January 2008. Understanding what brings nurses to California and why they leave the state is important for maintaining a healthy licensee population.
- The Board of Accountancy will discuss pursuing legislation that would ease mobility in California for out-of-state CPAs. Currently out-of-state CPAs must notify the CBA prior to practicing in California. Easing mobility in California would allow out-of-state CPAs to practice in California

without prior notification. This would provide consumers and businesses an option to obtain services from out-of-state CPAs immediately.

E-Prescribing Forum: The Board of Pharmacy and Medical Board are sponsoring an e-prescribing forum that will focus on what current California law allows with respect to e-prescribing, how e-prescribing is used today, what issues have been encountered and resolved, and the acceptance of e-prescribing by patients, pharmacies, prescribers and third-party payers.

Prescription labeling standards: The Board will host a forum on prescription container labels as California moves forward to redesign and standardize labels. Currently, label instructions can sometimes be confusing to the the patient.

Unlicensed activity: Several officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs and its Boards and Bureaus will be available to discuss the problem of unlicensed activity across all licensed professions and trades, including the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, the Bureau of Electronic Appliance Repair and the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.

Enforcing professional fiduciaries regulations: The creation in 2007 of the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau recognizes the significance of having trained and skilled professionals involved in the management of personal and financial matters of consumers. The proposed regulations for enforcement and reporting are necessary for Bureau operations. Enforcement regulations will provide the Bureau with authority to investigate complaints and take disciplinary actions against licensees. Reporting regulations are needed for the Bureau to fulfill its mandate to make certain information available to the public and courts as specified in law. The proposed regulations will increase industry standards, promote consumer empowerment, and provide for consumer

protection.

Virtual Practitioners Workshop: This forum will examine the Internet explosion and its effect on the value of the California's professional license, which can be diminished when online practitioners do not follow established standards in California. The workshop will consider how standards can be enforced when practitioners go online; the rules for online practice and if existing standards should be adapted to promote online practice.

Security Guard Training: The public will have the opportunity to discuss the training syllabus for Proprietary Security Officers developed by the Advisory Board consisting of employers, labor organizations representing security officers, law enforcement representative and representative from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Proprietary security officers work in many areas, such as nightclub bouncers, housing subdivisions and amusement parks. It is vital to public safety that these officers are properly trained for the job.

The meetings and forums are open to the public. If you have any questions about the stories outlined above or the PACT Summit in general, or would like us to help you set up interviews, obtain b-roll, etc., please contact the Office of Public Affairs. For a full agenda and schedule of the PACT Summit, visit the <http://www.dca.ca.gov/summit/>

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